

Special Interest Articles:

- New Water Well Installation Requirements
- Sick Building Syndrome
- AIA and DBIA Awards

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Food Inspectors Make 100th Tobacco Compliance Inspection

The Food Protection section provides regulatory oversight, consultative services, and educational support for establishments in Wichita and Sedgwick County. Food service establishment inspections are partially funded under a contract with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

The section also regulates the sales of cigarettes and other tobacco products within the City of Wichita. Efforts are targeted toward reducing sales to minors.

The Food Program completed their 100th tobacco compliance inspection on November 23rd, resulting in two citations for selling tobacco to a minor.

Ted Cooper, Food section supervisor,

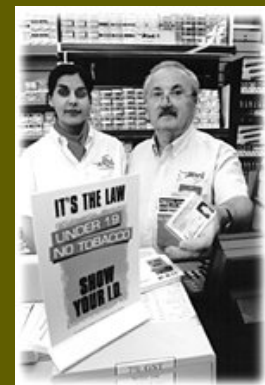


is currently looking for more volunteers to participate in the Tobacco Control Program.

Volunteers need to be under the age of eighteen, enrolled in high school and preferably need volunteer experience for possible school credit. For high school students looking to expand their resume, please contact Mr. Cooper at 316-268-8351.

Under 18 years old?

Interested in Criminal Justice or a future career in Law Enforcement?



VOLUNTEER IN THE TOBACCO PROGRAM!

Contact Ted Cooper
(316) 268-8351
tcooper@wichita.gov

Congratulations to food inspectors, Nicole Green and Thomas Vanatta on passing the standardization exam from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Looking for a City Registered Well Installer?

The Department of Environmental Health maintains a list of all City registered water well installers. For more information call 316-268-8351.

Coming Soon!

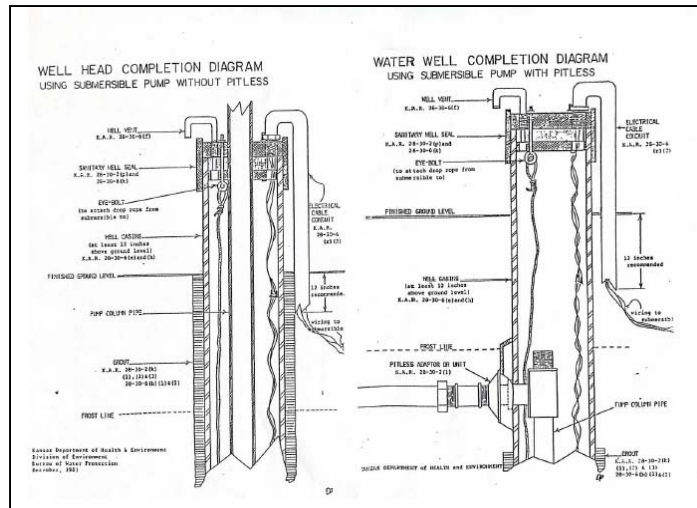
The list will soon be available on the City's website in 2005.

Water Quality Program Requirements

In order to better protect public health, the Department of Environmental Health is now requiring water well permits prior to the installation of private domestic water wells.

Application shall be made, and a site plan submitted with the proposed location of the well. Water quality program staff will review the permit application and proposed well location to ensure the water well will not be installed in a known area of groundwater contamination.

State licensed water well contractors are now required to register with the City prior to engaging in the business of



installing water wells. This allows the Department of Environmental Health to be aware of contractors operating in the City and will provide for more efficient communication as well as providing a method for institutional control for preventing the consumption of well water in known areas of contamination.

Homeowners or licensed well contractors may obtain permit application forms online or from the Department of Environmental Health. A completed permit application form may be submitted by fax, mail, or directly to the Environmental Health Department.

A completed application and site plan must be received along with \$150 fee (includes application fee and inspection fee) prior to application approval by the

department. The application will be reviewed by water quality staff and returned to the applicant.

Once the well has been installed the homeowner shall notify the Environmental Health Department for inspection.

The well installer, whether a registered contractor or home owner, is required to complete the drilling form WWC-5 and return it to KDHE and the Environmental Health Department within 30 days of drilling the well.

After installation, the Department of Environmental Health will inspect the well and upon approval, the completed permit will be mailed to the property owner.

For more information, contact Don Henry (316) 268-8351.

Water Well Forms Available on Wichita's Website

www.wichita.gov

Water Well Permit Application

In An Area Of Groundwater Contamination?

- Personal use wells, wells used for household purposes such as drinking, cooking, bathing, etc., are not permitted in known areas of contamination.
- Domestic lawn and garden wells and heat pump wells will be permitted in contamination areas.
- For such wells, it will be noted on the permit that the well is an area of known groundwater contamination.



Office Building Air Quality

Indoor air quality is a major concern to businesses, building managers, tenants, and employees because it can impact the health, comfort, well being, and productivity of building occupants.

Most Americans spend up to 90% of their time indoors and many spend most of their working hours in an office environment. Studies conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and others show that indoor environments sometimes can have levels of pollutants that are actually higher than levels found outside.

Pollutants in our indoor environment can increase the risk of illness. Several studies by EPA, states, and independent scientific panels have consistently ranked indoor air pollution as an important environmental health problem. While most buildings do not have severe indoor air quality problems, even well run buildings can sometimes experience episodes of poor indoor air quality.

Management of Pollutant Sources, both Inside and Outside the Building

Pollutants can be generated by outdoor or indoor sources, including building maintenance activities, pest control, house keeping, renovation or remodeling, new furnishings or finishes, and building occupant activities.

Some key pollutant categories include: **Biological** contaminants such as bacteria, viruses, fungi (including molds), dust mite, animal dander, and pollen may result from inadequate housekeeping and maintenance. Allergic responses to indoor biological pollutants cause symptoms in allergic individuals and may trigger asthma episodes for an estimated 15 million Americans.

Chemical pollutants include tobacco smoke, emissions from products used in the building (e.g., office equipment; furniture, wall and floor coverings; cleaning and consumer products)

accidental spills, and gases such as carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide, which are products of combustion.

Particles are solid or liquid substances that are light enough to be suspended in air, the largest of which may be visible in sunbeams streaming into a room. Particles of dust, dirt or other substances may be drawn into the building from outside and can also be produced by activities like sanding wood or drywall, printing, copying, operating equipment and smoking.

Things Everyone in the Building Can Do

- Do not block air vents or grilles.
- Comply with office and building smoking policy.
- Clean up water spills promptly, water and maintain office plants properly and report water leaks right away
- Dispose of garbage promptly and properly
- Store food properly
- Report any issues with the HVAC system
- Inquire about pest control practices
- Inform building management of your concerns



Code of the Month Section 7.52.020 Bird Control

The defecation of starlings and other blackbirds congregated for roosting purposes in urban areas and the congregation of pigeons in urban areas potentiating the transmission of psitticosis or other diseases to humans are detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the people in Wichita, Kansas and are hereby declared to be a nuisance.

It is unlawful for any owner or building manager to maintain or permit any roosting, nesting or feeding of starlings, other blackbirds and pigeons in or on any building, premises, or vegetation thereon, except as provided in Title 6 of this code, provided that the city through the Wichita Department of Environmental Health, its employees or agents thereof, may provide the services necessary to prevent or eliminate such roosting, nesting or feeding of starlings, other blackbirds and pigeons on any building, premises, or vegetation thereon and any occupant and owner shall permit and provide access in, on, and to such building, premises, or vegetation to such employees and agents as may be necessary to make investigations and to provide such services.

Any such employee or agent shall not, in making investigations and providing such services, thereby render himself liable personally.

Any suit brought against any such employee or agent because of such act performed by him in making investigations and providing such services shall be defended by the department of law until the final termination of the proceedings thereof. (Ord. No. 30-209 § 2)

Welcome New Water Quality Inspector

Charles Anderson is the newest staff member of the water quality program. Charles joined the Department of Environmental Health in November of 2003 as an environmental

maintenance code enforcement inspector. He interviewed for the water quality inspector position and transferred to the water quality program in September of 2004. Charles is a graduate of Kansas

State University with a BS in Wildlife Biology, Natural Resources and Environmental Science. He is currently responsible for water quality field duties in the southwest portions of Wichita and Sedgwick County.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.wichita.gov

WATER Center Receives Awards

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Honor Awards are the profession's highest recognition in design for those that best exemplify excellence. The WATER Center was chosen as the 2004 recipient for the Wichita Area. Congratulations to all those who made the project a success.



CDM has won the National Design-Build Award in the "Water Under \$15 Million Category" from the Design-Build Institute of America for the Gilbert and Mosley project in Wichita, Kansas. The award recognizes the City of Wichita and CDM's unique groundwater contamination solution—delivered on a design-build basis—that provides significant resources for environmental education and promotes economic development in Wichita.

The project's innovative approach protected the health of Wichita citizens, provided a valuable community resource, and has promoted more than \$300 million worth of economic development to date.



Holiday Giving Tradition Continues



Every year the City of Wichita, Department of Environmental Health and the Sedgwick County Community Health Department have a joint holiday luncheon for their employees during the month of December.

In the weeks before the luncheon employees collect teddy bears to donate to emergency personal to give to children under stressful and traumatic situations.

This year the sixty-four bears are going to the Wichita Fire Department. We hope they bring some comfort and joy to those in need.

About Our Department...

The mission of the Department of Environmental Health is *Protecting People... Preserving the Environment*. This mission is realized through our services, programs and projects that focus on environmental monitoring, code enforcement, and education.

